

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 Magnetic media for use in a magnetic tape drive (30) an identification window
2 segment (identification window segment 3108) having an electromagnetic
3 transmissiveness which varies along at least a portion of its in a manner chosen to
4 provide a predetermined media or cartridge signature when the media is transported at a
5 selected linear velocity. Preferably, the identification window segment is situated
6 between essentially opaque sections of the media, such as magnetic
7 recording/reproducing segment (3106) and a cleaning segment (3104). Upon insertion
8 into a magnetic tape drive, the magnetic tape is transported past a detector assembly
9 (100) which directs a beam of electromagnetic radiation through the tape. Transport of
10 the identification window segment past the detector assembly thus results in generation
11 of a signal having a waveform with an amplitude which varies in accordance with the
12 varying electromagnetic transmissiveness of the window. The signal is received at a
13 processor, which uses the signal to determine the type of the tape/cartridge and
14 optionally to operate the tape drive in accordance with the thusly discerned type.
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